

**Mississippi Public Service Commission**  
**5 Year Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-2023**

**July 17, 2017**



**Brandon Presley, Chairman**

**Cecil Brown, Vice-Chairman**

**Samuel F. Britton, Commissioner**

**Katherine Collier, Executive Director**

# MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## 5-Year Strategic Plan for the Fiscal Years 2019-2023

### 1. Mission Statement

The Mississippi Public Service Commission (“Commission” or “PSC”) is a regulatory and quasi-judicial body led by three elected Commissioners. The Commission regulates telecommunications, electric, gas, water and sewer utilities. The mission of the PSC is to protect the public interest of Mississippi utility consumers, while at the same time balancing the financial and operational interests of utility ratepayers, shareholders, member-owners and utility companies. The PSC is charged with the duty of ensuring that public utilities provide safe, adequate and reliable utility service at just and reasonable rates. The agency carries out legislative mandates such as the “No Call” program and administration of the Dual Party Relay System Service trust fund in addition to exercising safety jurisdiction over gas pipelines, investigation consumer complaints regarding utilities and conducting both formal and informal hearings.

### 2. Agency Philosophy

The Mississippi Public Service Commission is dedicated to providing professional and impartial services with the highest degree of integrity, honesty and dedication. In all of its endeavors, the PSC will be unbiased and forthright. In addition, the agency will closely monitor and evaluate all technical tools available to ensure efficient operation. As with any productive and successful entity, either public or private, the PSC will continually evaluate its workforce in an effort to maximize productivity to see that the citizens of the state of Mississippi are being served in the most economical, dignified and professional manner possible.

### **3. Relevant Statewide Goals and Benchmarks**

Statewide Goal # 1: Economic Development

Relevant Benchmarks:

- Business Climate

Energy price and availability in commercial and industrial sectors

Statewide Goal # 2: Natural Resources

Relevant Benchmarks:

- Energy

Total energy production

Renewable Energy Production

Statewide Goal # 3: Infrastructure

Relevant Benchmarks

- Public Utilities

Ratio of supply of electricity generation capacity to demand.

### **4. Overview of the Agency 5-Year Strategic Plan**

The Mississippi Public Service Commission will focus on effective utility regulation through implementation of programs aimed at improving efficiency. The Commission hopes to implement an enhanced electronic filing system, which will increase efficiency internally as well as streamline the filing process for interested parties

The Commission's Pipeline Safety Division will focus on preventing incidents through increased operator awareness as well as the number of inspections of pipeline systems. This will lead to a decrease in the need for emergency response and greater protection of the public. The passage of Senate bill 2755, also known as the "811 bill," during the 2016 Legislative Session

should also aid in the prevention of accidents. Additionally, this division will work toward greater transparency by enhancing information available on the Commission’s website.

The “No Call” Division of the Commission will work toward enhancing efficiency through streamlined processes and targeted enforcement actions. This approach should allow for an increase in assessment and collection of penalties for violation of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act, which was amended in 2016 to include cellular telephones, further bolstering the Commission’s ability in this ever-changing arena. The ultimate effect of these efforts will be a decrease in the total number of violations.

**5. Agency’s External/Internal Assessment**

- Federal Regulations could impact the cost of energy production in Mississippi.
- State and Federal Funding largely determine the extent to which the PSC is able to maintain adequate staffing and equipment.
- Federal Audit of Pipeline Safety determines federal reimbursement for program operation.

**6. Agency Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Measures by Program for FY 2019-2023**

**PROGRAM NUMBER 1**

**Utility Regulation**

**Goal A: Maintain Adequate and Reliable Utility Service Through Just and Reasonable Rates**

**OBJECTIVE A. 1: Expediently process utility dockets and maintain reasonable utility rates**

*Outcome: Reduce time to resolve Utility Complaint*

*Outcome: Average Price of Electricity for Residential Customers in Mississippi as a Percentage of the National Average - Investor-owned Utilities (%)*

*Outcome: Average Price of Electricity for Residential Customers in Mississippi as a Percentage of the National Average - Electric Cooperatives (%)*

*Outcome: Average Monthly Residential Electric Usage in Mississippi as a Percentage of the National Average (%)*

A.1.1. STRATEGY: Develop a comprehensive electronic filing system

*Output: Number of cases filed yearly*

*Efficiency: Cost of implementation of electronic filing system*

A.1.2. STRATEGY: Reduce overall number of utility complaints

*Output: Total Utility Docket Cases*

*Output: Total Utility Complaints*

*Output: Electric Complaints*

*Output: Telecom Complaints*

*Output: Water Complaints*

*Output: Gas Complaints*

*Output: Sewer Complaints*

*Efficiency: Electric Complaints as a Percentage of Total (%)*

*Efficiency: Telecom Complaints as a Percentage of Total (%)*

*Efficiency: Water Complaints as a Percentage of Total (%)*

*Efficiency: Gas Complaints as a Percentage of Total (%)*

*Efficiency: Sewer Complaints as a Percentage of Total (%)*

*Efficiency: Average Cost per Utility Complaint (\$)*

A.1.3. STRATEGY: Ensure fair and reasonable rates for electricity

*Output: Electric utility rate changes*

*Efficiency: Average Price of Electricity per Kilowatt Hour in Mississippi for Residential Customers - Investor-owned Utilities (Cents/kWh)*

*Efficiency: Average Price of Electricity per Kilowatt Hour in Mississippi for Residential Customers - Electric Cooperatives (Cents/kWh)*

*Efficiency: Average Price of Electricity per Kilowatt Hour - National Average (Cents/kWh)*

*Efficiency: Average Monthly Residential Electric Usage in Mississippi (kWh)*

**Goal B: Natural Gas Pipeline Safety**

**OBJECTIVE B.1: Protect the public and environment from the accidental release of natural gas involving intrastate natural gas pipeline system**

*Outcome: Reduce Pipeline Accidents*

*Outcome: Increase pipeline inspections*

*Outcome: Reduce incidents due to violation of "811" law*

B1.1 STRATEGY: Ensure gas system operator compliance with federal regulations through thorough inspections.

*Output: Number of Pipeline Inspections*

*Output: Gas Pipeline Operators*

*Efficiency: Average cost per pipeline inspection*

*Efficiency: Average cost per investigation of "811" violation*

**Goal C: Enforcement of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act (MTSA)**

**OBJECTIVE C.1: Engage in targeted enforcement of the MTSA.**

*Outcome: Reduce NO-Call Complaints*

*Outcome: Solicitors Assessed Penalties*

*Outcome: Penalties Collected*

B.1.1 STRATEGY: Enhanced tracking system to generate violation reports, which will lead to increased judgments against violators and decreased complaints.

*Output: Registered Telephone Solicitors*

*Output: Total NO-CALL Complaints*

*Output: Total Telephone Customers Served*

*Efficiency: Cost per No-Call Complaint*

*Efficiency: Cost per Telephone Solicitor*